

## Claims

1.-20. (cancelled)

21. (new) A help system comprising:

a first help facility installed on a data processing device, wherein the first help facility provides help data to a user on the basis of context data produced implicitly or explicitly by the user, wherein the help data is stored in the first help facility; and

a second help facility accessed by the data processing device such that the context data is adopted automatically in the second help facility, wherein the second help facility provides additional help data to the user on the basis of the context data, wherein the additional help data is stored in the second help facility.

22. (new) The help system according to claim 21, wherein the first help facility is an application or a part of an application.

23. (new) The help system according to claim 21, wherein the context data are determined on the basis of search terms.

24. (new) The help system according to claim 21, wherein the second help facility is accessed by the data processing device via the Internet.

25. (new) The help system according to claim 21, wherein the first help facility is configured as an offline help facility and the second help facility is configured as an online help facility.

26. (new) The help system according to claim 21, wherein the context data comprises data defined explicitly by the user, search expressions, and data predetermined by the first help facility which can be implicitly derived from a current workflow.

27. (new) The help system according to claim 21, wherein the context data comprises data and/or information about the version of the first help facility.

28. (new) The help system according to claim 21, wherein the additional online help data provided by the second help facility can be visualized for the user in a display device, together with the offline help data provided by the first help facility.

29. (new) The help system according to claim 21, wherein the context data defined by the user using the first help facility is stored at least as a link and the second help facility can be automatically activated via said link or any link.

30. (new) The help system according to claim 29, wherein the link or any link can then automatically activate the second help facility, when the second help facility is available online for the first help facility and thus for the data processing device, whereby if the second help facility is not available online, said link or any link and/or its context data is intermediately stored until the second help facility is available online.

31. (new) The help system according to claim 21, wherein the additional help data provided by the second help facility is stored on the second help facility such that the additional

help data is supplemented by metadata, the metadata defining the context in which the respective additional help data is relevant.

32. (new) The help system according to claim 21, wherein help data stored on the first help facility is automatically supplemented such that the additional help data provided by the second help facility is stored in the first help facility.

33. (new) The help system according to claim 21, wherein the additional help data is stored in the second help facility and structured according to the workflow of the user, such that when additional help data is determined, help data is provided only for a current processing step.

34. (new) An automation device comprising a help system according to claim 21.

35. (new) A method for providing help data, the method comprising:

    implicitly or explicitly defining context data regarding a first help facility by a user;

    providing help data to the user, the help data based on the context data, and wherein the help data is stored in the first help facility;

    automatically adopting the context data in a second help facility;

    providing additional help data to the user based on the context data by the second help facility, wherein the additional help data is stored in the second help facility.

36. (new) The method according to claim 35, wherein the context data are determined on the basis of search terms.

37. (new) The method according to claim 35, wherein the context data comprises data explicitly defined by the user and data predetermined by the first help facility, wherein the data are derived implicitly from a current workflow.

38. (new) The method according to claim 35, wherein the additional help data provided by the second help facility is online help data visualized for the user in a display device, together with an offline help data provided by the first help facility.

39. (new) The method according to claim 35, wherein the context data is stored as at least one link, and the second help facility is automatically activated via said link or any link.

40. (new) The method according to claim 39, wherein the link or any link then automatically activates the second help facility, if the second help facility is available online for the first help facility and thus for the data processing device, whereby if the second help facility is not available online, the link or any link and/or its context data is stored until the second help facility is available online.